Numb. 41

# The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

——— *Celebrare Domestica Facta.*

From *Tuesday July* 12. to *Thursday July* 14. 1709.

*White's Chocolate-house, July* 12.

THERE is no one Thing more to be lamented in our Nation, than their general Affectation of every Thing that is Foreign; nay we carry it so far, that we are more anxious for our own Countrymen when they have cross'd the Seas, than when we see 'em in the same dangerous Condition before our Eyes at Home: Else how is it possible, that on the 29th of the last Month, there should have been a Battle fought in our very Streets of *London*, and no Body at this End of the Town have heard of it. I protest, I, who make it my Business to enquire after Adventures, should never have known this, had not the following Account been sent me enclos'd in a Letter. This, it seems, is the Way of giving out of Orders in the Artillery-Company; and they prepare for a Day of Action with so little Concern, as only to call it, *An Exercise of Arms.*

*An Exercise at Arms of the Artillery Company, to be perform'd on* Wednesday June 29. 1709. *under the Command of Sir* Joseph Woolf, *Knight and Alderman, General*; Charles Hopson *Esquire, present Sheriff, Lieutenant-General*; *Captain* Richard Synge, *Major*; *Major* John Shorey, *Captain of Granadiers*; *Capt.* William Grayhurst, *Capt.* John Buttler, *Capt.* Robert Carelis, *Captains.*

THE Body March from the *Artillery-Ground* through *Moregate, Coleman-street, Lothbury, Broad-street, Finch-Lane, Cornhill, Cheapside*, St. *Martin's*, St. *Anne's-Lane*, Hault the Pikes under the Wall in *Noble-street*, Draw up the Firelocks Facing the Goldsmiths Hall, make Ready and Face to the Left, and Fire, and so *ditto* Three Times. Beat to Arms, and March round the Hall, as up *Lad-Lane, Gutter-Lane, Hony-Lane*, and so Wheel to the Right, and make your Salute to my Lord, and so down St. *Anne's-Lane*, up *Aldersgate-street, Barbican*, and Draw up in *Red-Cross-street*, the Right at St. *Paul's-Alley* in the Rear. March off Lieutenant General with Half the Body up *Beech-Lane*: He sends a Sub-Division up *King's-Head-Court*, and takes Post in it, and Marches Two Divisions round into *Red-Lyon-Market*, to defend that Pass, and Succour the Division in *King's-Head-Court*, but keeps in *White-Cross-street*, facing *Beech-Lane*; the rest of the Body ready drawn up. Then the General Marches up *Beech-Lane*, is Attack'd, but Forces the Division in the Court into the Market, and enters with Three Divisions while he presses the Lieutenant-General's Main Body; and at the same Time, the Three Divisions force those of the Revolters out of the Market, and so all the Lieutenant-General's Body retreats into *Chiswel-street*, and lodges Two Divisions in *Grub-street*; and as the General marches on, they fall on his Flank, but soon made to give Way; but having a Retreating Place into *Red-Lyon-Court*, but could not hold it, being put to Flight through *Paul's-Alley*, and pursued by the General's Granadiers, while he Marches up and Attacks their main Body, but are Opposed again by a Party of Men as lay in *Black-Raven-Court*; but they are forced also to Retire soon in the utmost Confusion; and at the same Time those Brave Divisions in *Paul's-Alley* ply their Rear with Granadiers, that with Precipitation they take to the Rout along *Bunhill-Row*: So the General Marches into the *Artillery-Ground*, and being Drawn up, finds the Revolting Party to have found Entrance, and makes a Show as if for a Battle, and both Armies soon Engage in Form, and Fire by Platoons.

Much might be said for the Improvement of this System; which, for its Style and Invention, may instruct Generals and their Historians, both in fighting a Battle, and describing it when 'tis over. These elegant Expressions, *Ditto— And so— But soon— But having— But could not— But are— But they— Finds the Party to have found*, &c.— do certainly give great Life and Spirit to the Relation. Indeed I am extremely concern'd for the Lieutenant-General, who, by his Overthrow and Defeat, is made a deplorable Instance of the Fortune of War, and Vicissitudes of human Affairs. He, alas! has lost in *Beech-Lane* and *Chiswel-street*, all the Glory he lately gain'd in and about *Holborn* and St. *Giles's*. The Art of Subdividing first, and Dividing afterwards, is new and surprizing; and according to this Method, the Troops are dispos'd in *Kings-Head-Court* and *Red-Lion-Market*: Nor is the Conduct of these Leaders less conspicuous in their Choice of the Ground or Field of Battle. Happy was it, that the greatest Part of the Atchievements of this Day was to be perform'd near *Grub-street*, that there might not be wanting a sufficient Number of faithful Historians, who being Eye-Witnesses of these Wonders, should impartially transmit them to Posterity: But then it can never be enough regreted, that we are left in the Dark as to the Name and Title of that extraordinary Hero who commanded the Divisions in *Paul's-Alley*; especially because those Divisions are justly stil'd Brave, and accordingly were to push the Enemy along *Bunhil-Row*, and thereby occasion a general Battle. But *Pallas* appear'd in the Form of a Shower of Rain, and prevented the Slaughter and Desolation which were threatned by these extraordinary Preparations.

*Hi Motus Animorum atq; hæc Certamina tanta*
*Pulveris exigui Jactu compressa quiescunt.*

*Will's Coffee-house, July* 13.

Some Part of the Company keep up the old Way of Conversation in this Place, which usually turn'd upon the Examination of Nature, and an Enquiry into the Manners of Men. There is one in the Room so very judicious, that he manages Im-

Impertinents with the utmoſt Dexterity. It was diverting this Evening to hear a Diſcourſe between him and one of theſe Gentlemen. He told me before that Perſon join'd us, that he was a Queſtioner, who, according to his Deſcription, is one who asks Queſtions, not with a Deſign to receive Information, but an Affectation to ſhow his Uneaſineſs for Want of it. He went on in aſſerting, that there are Cowards of that modeſt Ambition, as to aim no further than to demonſtrate that they are in Doubt. But by this Time *Will. Why not* was ſat down by us. So Gentlemen, (ſays he) In how many Days, think you, ſhall we be Maſters of *Tournay?* Is the Account of the Action of the *Vivarois* to be depended upon? Could you have imagin'd *England* had ſo much Money in it as you ſee it has produc'd? Pray Sirs, What do you think? Will the Duke of *Savoy* make an Irruption into *France?* But (ſays he) Time will clear all theſe Myſteries. His Anſwer to himſelf gave me the Altitude of his Head, and to all his Queſtions I anſwer'd very ſatisfactorily— Sir, Have you heard that this *Slaughterford* never own'd the Fact for which he died? Have the News-Papers mention'd that Matter? But, pray, Can you tell me what Method will be taken to provide for theſe *Palatines?* But this, as you ſay, Time will clear. Ay, ay, ſays he, and whiſpers me, *They will never let us into theſe Things before-hand.* I whiſper'd him again, We ſhall know it as ſoon as there is a Proclamation— He tells me in t'other Ear, You are in the right of it. Then he whiſper'd my Friend to know what my Name was; then made an obliging Bow, and went to examine another Table. This led my Friend and me to weigh this wandering Manner in many other Incidents, and he took out of his Pocket ſeveral little Notes or Tickets to ſollicit for Votes to Employments: As, 'Mr. *John Taplaſh* having ſerved all Offices, and being 'reduced to great Poverty, deſires your Vote for Sing-'ing-Clerk of this Pariſh. Another has had Ten Chil-'dren, all whom his Wife has ſuckled her ſelf; 'therefore humbly deſires to be a Schoolmaſter. There is nothing ſo frequent as this Way of Application for Offices. It is not that you are fit for the Place, but becauſe the Place would be convenient for you, that you claim a Merit to it. But commend me to the great *Kirleus*, who has lately ſet up for Midwifery, and to help Child-birth, for no other Reaſon, but that he is himſelf the *Unborn* Doctor. The *Way* is to hit upon ſomething that puts the Vulgar upon the Stare, or that touches their Compaſſion, which is often the weakeſt Part about us. I know a good Lady, who has taken her Daughters from their old Dancing Maſter, to place them with another, for no other Reaſon, but becauſe the new Man has broke his Leg, which is ſo ill ſet, that he can never dance more.

*From my own Apartment July 13.*

As it is a frequent Mortification to me to receive Letters, wherein People tell me, without a Name, they know I meant them in ſuch and ſuch a Paſſage; ſo that very Accuſation is an Argument, That there are ſuch Beings in Human Life, and our Diſcourſe is not altogether fantaſtical and groundleſs. But in this Caſe I am treated as I ſaw a Boy was t'other Day, who gave out pocky Bills: Every plain Fellow took it that paſs'd by, and went on his Way without further Notice: At laſt came one with his Noſe a little abridg'd; who knocks the Lad down, with a, *Why you Son of a W—e, do you think I am p—d.* But *Shakeſpear* has made the beſt Apology for this Way of talking againſt Publick Errors: He makes *Jaques*, in the Play call'd, *As you like it*, expreſs himſelf thus:

*Why, Who cries out on Pride,*
*That can therein tax any private Party?*
*What Woman in the City do I name?*
*When that I ſay the City Woman bears*
*The Coſt of Princes on unworthy Shoulders.*
*Who can come in and ſay that I mean her,*
*When ſuch a one as ſhe, ſuch is her Neighbour?*
*Or, What is he of baſeſt Function,*
*That ſays his Bravery is not on my Coſt?*
*Thinking that I mean him, but therein ſuits*
*His Folly to the Mettle of my Speech.*
*There then! How then? Then let me ſee wherein*
*My Tongue hath wrong'd him: If it do him right,*
*Then he hath wrong'd himſelf: If he be free,*
*Why then my Taxing like a wild Gooſe flies,*
*Unclaim'd of any Man.*

*St James's Coffee-houſe, July 13.*

We have received, by Letters of the 18th Inſtant from the Camp before *Tournay*, an Account, That we were in a fair Proſpect of being Maſters of the Town within ſeven Days after that Date. Our Batteries had utterly overthrown thoſe of the Enemy. On the 16th Inſtant, *N. S.* General *Schuylenburg* had made a Lodgment on the Counterſcarp of the Tenaille; which Poſt was ſo weakly defended, that we loſt but Six Men in gaining it. So that there ſeems Reaſon to hope, that the Citadel will alſo be in the Hands of the Confederates about the 6th of *Auguſt, O. S.* Theſe Advices inform us further, That Marſhal *Villars* had order'd large Detachments to make Motions towards *Douay* and *Conde*. The ſwift Progreſs of this Siege has ſo much alarm'd the other Frontier Towns of *France*, that they were throwing down ſome Houſes in the Suburbs of *Valenciennes*, which they think may ſtand commodiouſly for the Enemy in caſe of a Siege of that Place. The Elector of *Cologne* is making all imaginable Haſt to remove from thence to *Rheims*.


*Advertiſements.*

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